
NEWS RELEASE

United Overseas Bank Presents The 27th Painting Of The Year Competition

Prize money for Painting Of The Year Winner increased to \$30,000

Singapore, 16 May 2008 - United Overseas Bank Limited (“UOB”) has been supporting the arts since 1973, and this year marks the 27th year of the UOB Painting Of The Year Competition and Exhibition (“POY”). The POY is UOB’s flagship community programme in support of the arts, and has been held annually since 1982. It is now a key event in the arts calendar in Singapore, and today, UOB is pleased to announce the launch of the 27th UOB POY. This year, UOB will also be increasing the quantum of the prize money for winners as a form of encouragement, and the winner of the UOB Painting Of The Year can also look forward to receiving \$30,000 in prize money – an increase of \$10,000 over the previous year.

Mr Terence Ong, Senior Executive Vice President Global Markets & Investment Management & Alternate Chairman of the UOB Art Committee said, “UOB is heartened by the response to the POY over the last 26 years. We have increased the quantum of the prizes for the competition this year to recognise the effort put in by the artists, and support their commitment to their craft.”

Through the Competition, UOB hopes to promote a greater interest in local art, encourage artists in pursuing their talents, and give recognition to their work. Past winners of the UOB POY include Goh Beng Kwan, Thomas Yeo, the late Chua Ek Kay and Anthony Poon, who all went on to receive local and international acclaim and awards, including the prestigious Cultural Medallion conferred by the President of Singapore.

Last year’s Competition saw an overwhelming response, with 1,100 entries submitted by about 800 participants, which is testimony to the vibrant arts scene in Singapore. UOB is proud to be

able to provide an opportunity, through the Competition, for our local artists to showcase their work and creativity through their chosen mediums.

UOB invites painters and photographers in Singapore to take part in the 27th UOB POY. This competition is open to all Singapore Citizens, and employment, work-permit and student pass holders.

There are no participation fees, and participants stand to win one of the following prizes.

UOB Painting Of The Year Winner	\$30,000 and a Trophy
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Most Promising Young Artist

Youth Section	\$2,000 and a Trophy
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Junior Section	\$1,500 and a Trophy
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Category Winner Awards

- Abstract Category \$ 10,000
- Representational Category \$ 10,000
- Traditional Chinese Category \$ 10,000
- Photography Category \$ 10,000

Three Highly-commended Awards for each section

- Open Section \$500 each
- Youth Section \$300 each
- Junior Section \$100 each

All award-winning and highly-commended entries will be exhibited at the 27th UOB Painting Of The Year Exhibition to be held at Jendela (Visual Arts Space by Cristal Caritas Trust), Espanade – Theatres on the Bay, 1 Esplanade Drive, Singapore 038981, from 12 July to 2 August 2008.

Entry Submission Details

Entry forms and a copy of the rules and regulations of the Competition are available at uobgroup.com, all UOB branches, schools and art institutions.

All entries must be submitted at the Visual Arts Seminar Room, Level 2, Nanyang Academy Of Fine Arts Campus 1 (Wing B), 80 Bencoolen Street, Singapore 189655 on Sunday, 6 July 2008 between 1pm and 6pm.

For more information, please visit the UOB website at uobgroup.com.

About UOB Painting Of The Year Competition
Please refer to the attached Fact Sheet.

About United Overseas Bank

UOB is a leading bank in Singapore that provides a wide range of financial services through its global network of over 500 offices in 18 countries and territories in Asia-Pacific, Western Europe and North America. It has banking subsidiaries in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and mainland China.

UOB is committed to playing an active and meaningful role in the community with our focus on children, education and the arts.

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The UOB Painting Of The Year Competition And Exhibition

Fact Sheet

1. Introduction

The United Overseas Bank (UOB) Painting Of The Year (POY) Competition was launched in March 1982 and has been held annually since. The year 2008 marks the 27th anniversary of this premier art event in Singapore.

2. Objectives

The main objectives of the Competition are:

- to promote greater interest in local art;
- to encourage local artists to persist in their creative endeavours; and
- to provide recognition for the best creative works.

3. History & Development

Since 1973, the UOB Group has been helping budding local artists by purchasing their works of art. Through this purchase-support programme, the Group has, to date, acquired a large collection of artworks totalling more than 1,500 pieces. These paintings are displayed at the Group's Head Office at 80 Raffles Place as well as at its network of over 500 offices worldwide.

The UOB POY Competition is an extension of the Group's patronage of the arts. For its contribution to the arts, UOB was conferred the "Distinguished Patron of the Arts" by the National Arts Council in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

The first POY Competition - held in 1982 - was jointly organised by the UOB Group and the then Ministry of Culture (now called the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts.)

Since 1983, the competition has been the sole effort of the UOB Group.

4. Structure of the Competition

Since its launch in 1982, the Competition has undergone various changes to its format. These changes, recommended by the panel of judges, were introduced to enhance the quality and prestige of the Competition.

- 1982: The first Competition was divided into two sections - an Open Section and a Young People's Section.
- 1983: The Competition was reduced to one section - the Open Section.
- 1984: The Competition was divided into three categories – Abstract Medium, Representational Medium and Traditional Chinese Medium – to attract participation from the widest range of artists.
- 1991: The Competition was again divided into two sections - an Open Section and a Junior Section. The Junior Section was introduced for those 18 years old and below

to build on the Group's objective of nurturing young talents. Participants in the Junior Section were eligible to compete in the Open Section.

- 2003: A new photography category was added to the existing three, bringing the total number of categories to four.
- 2006: The Junior Section was further expanded into two separate categories – the Youth Section for participants aged 13 to 18, and the Junior Section for those aged 6 to 12.
- 2008: The prize money for the Painting Of The Year has also been increased to \$30,000. This is accompanied by increases in the prizes for the other awards.

5. Judges

Each year, the entries are judged by a panel of judges comprising renowned artists/art connoisseurs/art curators who are specially appointed by the UOB Group Art Committee. The panel includes prominent personalities from overseas to ensure objectivity in the judging.

6. UOB Painting Of The Year Exhibition

Each year, the award-winning and highly-commended paintings from the Competition are displayed at the UOB POY Exhibition. The aim of the Exhibition is to foster a higher level of art consciousness among the public.

Since 1985, the UOB Group has also concurrently staged a special exhibition featuring works by the winner of the preceding year's Competition at the Exhibition. The Group hopes to help local artists gain more recognition for their works and inspire them to achieve even higher standards through such sponsorships.

In 2007, UOB presented an exhibition called The Best Of UOB in conjunction with the Singapore Arts Show 2007, where the top painting from the first 26 POY Competitions were showcased.

7. Premier Event Status

The success of the UOB POY Competition can be seen by such healthy indicators as the good response over the last 26 years, the high standard of styles and mediums adopted, the extensive publicity enjoyed by the winners, and the wide recognition gained by the participating artists as a result of winning the Competition. The Competition is also now regarded as a yardstick in judging the standard of their works.

The POY Exhibition was included as a Fringe Event in the inaugural Singapore Biennale 2006, a cultural event that showcased international contemporary art.